

(b) AV capture capabilities at each workstation configured to capture the image and voice of the participants; and

[(a)] (c) an incoming call acceptance mechanism [for] capable of detecting an incoming teleconference call, from at least one calling participant, at the workstation of a first participant and, if the first participant is engaged in an active teleconference [call] with a second participant, notifying the first participant of the identity of each calling participant forming a part of the incoming teleconference call and providing the first participant with the option of accepting the incoming teleconference call.

2. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2, further comprising:

(a) an incoming call mode selector, [for] at the workstation of the first participant and operable by the first participant, that can select[ing] a desired incoming call mode from one of an intercom mode and a telephone mode, [and] wherein

(i) if telephone mode is selected or the first participant is engaged in an active teleconference [call], the first participant is notified of, and provided with the option of, accepting the incoming teleconference call, and

(ii) if intercom mode is selected, the incoming call [can be] is accepted automatically.

3. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2, wherein the incoming call acceptor can perform any function selected from the set of functions consisting of:

(a) blocking all incoming teleconference calls;

(b) notifying the [first] calling participants that the [second] first participant refuses to accept the call; and

(c) notifying the [first] calling participants that an attempt has been made to establish the call but that the call has not yet been established.

4. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 1 wherein the call acceptance mechanism includes a priority call announcer [for indicating to a user of a workstation] capable of informing the first participant that a priority teleconference call is being directed to the workstation of the first participant.

5. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2 further comprising:
(a) a teleconference call acceptance detection mechanism [for] capable of detecting whether [a] the first participant accepted [a] the incoming teleconference call [initiated by a second participant]; and
(b) a leave word indicator [for] capable of generating a message [for] that can be visually displayed by the monitor [visual display] at the workstation of the first participant indicating that the [second] calling participants attempted to call the first participant, if the first participant did not accept the teleconference call.

6. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2 wherein, if [first] the second participant [opts for selecting] selects the incoming teleconference call, the incoming call acceptance mechanism places the active teleconference [call] on hold and accepts the incoming teleconference call.

7. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim 2 further comprising:
(a) a call initiator at the workstations of [associated with] the [first] calling participants [attempting to initiate the teleconference call with the second participant, the call initiator] including a call status indicator [for] capable of indicating the status of the call to the [first] calling participants.

8. (Once Amended) The teleconference system of claim 8, wherein the incoming call acceptance mechanism [is] can cause the monitor at the workstation of the first participant [operable] to display the identification of the calling participants [originator of the incoming call].

9 ~~10~~. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ~~2~~¹, further comprising:
(a) an add participant selection mechanism [for] capable of selecting a new participant from among a plurality of potential participants and adding the new participant to [an active] the active teleconference [call].

10 ~~11~~. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ~~2~~¹, further comprising:
(a) an incoming call [detecting] detection mechanism [for] capable of detecting, during [a first] the active teleconference [call between a first and second of the participants], an attempt by [a third caller] the calling participants to initiate a second teleconference call with the [second] first participant, and [for] capable of notifying the [second] first participant of the attempt; and
(b) an incoming call acceptance mechanism, operable by the [second] first participant, [for] to add the [adding the third caller] calling participants to the [first] active teleconference [call].

11 ~~12~~. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system [according to] of claim ~~11~~¹⁰, wherein the incoming call [detecting] detection mechanism can detect, and the incoming call acceptance mechanism can add, a [fourth] third participant to the teleconference [call, the first, second and third participants] after the calling participants have been added.

12 ~~13~~. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ~~2~~¹, further comprising:
(a) an AV path for carrying AV signals among the workstations, the AV signals representing video images and/or spoken audio of the participants;
(b) an AV conference manager, [for managing] configured to manage a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of at least one of the participants [is] are [re]produced by the monitors at the workstations of [another of] the other participants;

wherein the AV conference manager is [operable to support] capable of supporting a maximum number of calls equal to N, where N is any integer, associated with a workstation; and

(c) a call selector [which] that enables a selecting participant[,] operating the workstation, when faced with M possible calls, where M is an integer greater than N, to select N [calls] of the M [possible] calls.

13 14. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ¹²13, further comprising:
(a) means, operable by the selecting participant, [to invoke] for invoking further calls even if the AV conference manager is supporting N active calls and [to give] for giving the selecting participant the opportunity to select which calls are to be active.

14 15. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ¹14, further comprising
(a) an incoming call postponing mechanism, operable by the first participant, [for notifying a] to notify the calling participants [initiating the incoming teleconference call] that the first participant, instead of accepting the call, wishes to postpone it.

15 16. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ¹⁴15, wherein the first participant can operate the incoming call postponing mechanism to [indicate, to] inform the calling participants of [participant initiating the incoming call,] an expected postponement period [of time by which the incoming call is to be postponed].

16 17. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ¹⁵16, further comprising:
(a) means [to capture and save] for capturing and saving particulars [with respect] relating to the postponed incoming teleconference call, sufficient [enough] for the first participant to later initiate a teleconference call, with the calling participants [participant who initiated the postponed incoming teleconference call].

17 ~~18~~. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ~~2~~¹, further comprising:
(a) a teleconference call deferring mechanism, operable by [a] the first participant [in a teleconference between the first and at least, a second participant], to defer the teleconference and to capture the state of the teleconference call, the state including sufficient particulars to enable at least one of the participants to re-establish the teleconference call.

18 ~~19~~. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ~~18~~¹⁷, wherein the first participant can operate the call deferring mechanism to [indicate, to] inform at least the [second] calling participants of, an expected deference period [of time by which the teleconference call is to be deferred].

19 ~~20~~. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ~~18~~¹⁷, wherein the call deferring mechanism causes addressing identifiers_s relating to participants and to documents_s to be recorded, whereby, when the call is re-established, the monitors of the workstations display a recreation of their respective displays at the time the call was deferred.

20 ~~21~~. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ~~18~~¹⁷, wherein the call deferring mechanism causes the images displayed on the monitor of each participant to be recorded when the teleconference [call] is deferred, whereby each [the] participant can access the recorded images after the call is deferred.

21 ~~22~~. (Once Amended) The teleconferencing system of claim ~~2~~¹, further comprising at least one of the group consisting of:

(a) a remote participant hold selection mechanism_s operable by [a] the first participant[, in] during a teleconference [call] among at least the first, [a] second and a third participant, [for] that is capable of placing on hold at least the second participant while maintaining the teleconference [call between the first and] with the third participant[s]; and

(b) a remote participant disconnection mechanism, operable by [a] the first participant[, in] during a teleconference [call] among at least the first, [a] second and a third participant, [for] that is capable of disconnecting the second participant while maintaining the teleconference [call between the first and] with the third participant[s].

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23. (Once Amended) A method for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants, [having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of the participants, the workstations being interconnected by a first network, the network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among the workstations, the method] comprising the steps of:

- (a) detecting an incoming teleconference call, from at least one calling participant, at the workstation of a first participant during an active teleconference with a second participant;
- (b) notifying the first participant of the identity of each of the calling participants [forming a part of the incoming teleconference call]; and
- (c) providing the first participant with the option of accepting the incoming teleconference call.

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24. (Once Amended) The method of claim 23, further comprising the steps of:

- (a) selecting a desired incoming call mode from one of an intercom mode and a telephone mode, wherein
- (i) if telephone mode is selected [or the first participant is engaged in an active teleconference call], the first participant is notified of, and provided with the option of, accepting the incoming teleconference call, and
- (ii) if intercom mode is selected, the incoming call [can be] is accepted automatically.

24 ~~23~~. (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~24~~²³ further comprising at least one of the steps selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) blocking all incoming teleconference calls;
- (b) notifying the [first] calling participants that the [second] first participant refuses to accept the call; and
- (c) notifying the [first] calling participants that an attempt has been made to establish the call but that the call has not yet been established.

25 ~~26~~. (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~²² further comprising the step[s] of:
(a) [indicating to a user of a workstation] informing the first participant that a priority teleconference call is being directed to the workstation of the first participant.

26 ~~27~~. (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~²² further comprising the steps of:
(a) detecting whether [a] the first participant accepted the incoming conference call [a teleconference call initiated by a second participant]; and
(b) visually displaying by the monitor at the workstation of the first participant, an indication that the calling participants attempted to call the first participant, if the first participant did not accept the teleconference call.

27 ~~28~~. (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~²² further comprising the steps of:
(a) placing the active teleconference [call] on hold; and
(b) accepting the incoming teleconference call.

28 ~~29~~. (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~²² further comprising the step of:
(a) indicating the status of the call to the [first] calling participants.

29. ²⁸~~30~~. (Once Amended) The method of claim ²⁸~~29~~, further comprising the step of:
(a) displaying the identity of the calling participants by the monitor at the workstation of the first participant [origin of the incoming call].

30. ²²~~31~~. (Once Amended) The method of claim ²²~~30~~, further comprising the steps of:
[(a) an add participant selection mechanism for selecting a new participant from among a plurality of potential participants; and]
(a) selecting a new participant from among a plurality of potential participants; and
(b) adding the new participant to [an] the active teleconference [call].

31. ²²~~32~~. (Once Amended) The method of claim ²²~~31~~, further comprising the steps of:
(a) detecting, during [a first] the active teleconference [call between a first and second of the participants], an attempt by [a new caller] the calling participants to initiate a second teleconference call with the [second] first participant;
(b) notifying the [second] first participant of the attempt; and
(c) adding the [new caller] calling participants to the [first] active teleconference [call].

33. ²²~~34~~. (Once Amended) The method of claim ²²~~33~~, further comprising the steps of:
(a) moving AV signals among the workstations, the AV signals representing [video] the images [and spoken audio] and/or voices of the participants;
(b) managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken audio of at least one of the participants is [re]produced by the monitors at the workstations [of another] of the other participants;
(c) supporting a maximum number of calls equal to N, where N is any integer, associated with a workstation; and
(d) enabling a participant, operating the workstation, when faced with M possible calls where M is an integer greater than N, to select N calls of the M possible calls.

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34 35. (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~25~~²² further comprising the step of:
(a) notifying [a participant initiating the incoming teleconference call] the calling participants that the first participant wishes to postpone the call instead of accepting it.

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36. (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~35~~³⁴ further comprising the step of informing the calling participants of [indicating to the participant initiating the incoming call,] an expected postponement period [of time by which the incoming call is to be postponed].

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37. (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~36~~³⁵ further comprising the steps of:
(a) capturing and saving particulars [with respect] relating to the postponed incoming teleconference call; and
(b) later₁ initiating a teleconference call[,] with the calling participants [who initiated the postponed incoming teleconference call,] using the saved particulars.

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38. (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~37~~²² further comprising the steps of:
(a) deferring the teleconference;
(b) capturing the state of the teleconference call; and
(c) enabling at least one of the participants to re-establish the teleconference call using the captured state.

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[39] ~~38~~³². (Once Amended) The method of claim ~~38~~²² further comprising at least one of the steps selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) [in] during a teleconference [call] among at least the first, [a] second and a third participant, [for] placing on hold [at least] the second participant while maintaining the teleconference [call between the first and] with the third participant[s]; and
(b) [in] during a teleconference [call] among at least the first, [a] second and a third participant, [for] disconnecting the second participant while maintaining the teleconference [call between the first and] with the third participant[s].